Increase in Price of Wheat for Export by FCI

2200. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has recently increased the prices of wheat for export purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the wheat export is likely to be affected as result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The price of wheat sold by FCI for the purpose of export from Central Pool was last increased with effect from 1.7.1996.

(b) The price of wheat sold for the purpose of export was revised from Rs. 4410/- to Rs. 4900/- per MT with effect from 1.7.1996 for sale ex-FCI godowns only in Punjab and Haryana from where the sale of wheat for the purpose of export is to be made.

(c) Against the authorisation given to the FCI during 1996-97 to export/sell for the purpose of export upto 5.0 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat against the carryover commitment made in 1995-96, about 4.42 lakh tonnes have already been released as on 31.7.1996 leaving a balance of 0.58 lakh tonnes of wheat. Wheat exporters are free to purchase wheat for purposes of export from the open market. Potential for export of wheat from the country depends, *inter-alia*, on the world market prices, which cannot be precisely predicted at present.

Contract to Private Operators for Transporting Coal

2201. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what procedure is normally followed for award of contract to private operators for transporting coal by subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) whether it is a fact that procedure for awarding such contract is not by open tender but by negotiations with the private parties;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total amount of payments made to the private ccontracting parties for transporting coal by various subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. during the last two years, subsidiary-wise and company-wise separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The award of contracts to civilian contractors for transportation of coal is through open and limited tenders. Ex-servicemen companies are engaged on the basis of sponsorship of Directorate General, Resettlement of the Ministry of Defence.

(d) The payments made by subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited, subsidiary-wise, to the contractors for transportation of coal during the last two years are as under:—

Company	(Rupees in lakhs) Payment made in 1994-95	Payment made in 1995-96
Eastern Coalfields Limited	1,441.29	1,442.59
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	3,220.71	3,207.55
Central Coalfields Limited	9,385.00	10,287.00
Western Coalfields Limited	3,191.00	4,459.00
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	2,803.00	2,716.00

Northern Coalfields Limited	4,940.00	4,582.00
Mahanandi Coalfields Limited	2,014.73	2,127.01
North Eastern Coalfields Limited	15.24	4.69

Products Manufactured by Durgapur Steel Plant

2202. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the main products of the Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant;

(b) how and where those are processed into finished products alongwith the names and location of those plants;

(c) the conditionalities for supply of stainless steel slabs from Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant to Salem steel plant for production of stainless steel items; and

(d) the difficulties in installing a hot rolling plant at Durgapur to produce stainless steel items at a comparatively low cost?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The main products of Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur are Slabs, Blooms, Billets, Bars, Plates & Sheets and Forged Products.

(b) ASP, Durgapur is processing and selling the above mentioned products from various shops of the plant. However, slabs produced are finally converted into Hot Rolled/Cold Rolled Plates, Sheets and Coils by Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), Bokaro (Bihar), and Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), Rourkela (Orissa), and into pipes by RSP. Stainless Steel Slabs are converted into HR/CR Coils/Sheets at Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem (Tamilnadu). BSL, RSP and SSP market these products.

(c) Depending upon the requirement of the market, orders for procurement of slabs is placed on ASP. The basis of supply is on the minimum contribution over the variable cost for various grades/quality.

(d) SAIL has already installed a hot rolling plant at Salem for producing hot rolled coils slabs supplied by Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur. There is enough capacity available at SSP and the demand has not picked up in the country to justify installing a hot rolling plant at Durgapur.

Economically Backward Muslims Under OBC Categories

2203. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire Muslims, who are economically backward are covered under the Mandal formula of reservation under OBC;

(b) if not, which category of Muslims are covered under the Mandal formula, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government will consider bringing the entire economically backward Muslims under OBC for the benefit under the Mandal formula as has been done in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Only those sections of Muslims which are socially and educationally backward have been included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the purpose of providing reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services under the Government of India. State-wise List of Muslims in which there is a specific indication of their belonging to Muslim community who are included in